

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please ADD claim 14 and AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image data processing apparatus comprising:
a first apparatus which enters, from an image on a medium, image data with embedded stegano data that cannot be recognized visually, the first apparatus sending the entered image data to the outside with destination information and receiving a result of processing from the outside and holding the same, said first apparatus having a low processing capability for processing stegano data; and

a second apparatus which receives said image data and destination information from said first apparatus, effects data processing on the image data received from the first apparatus to acquire stegano data, the second apparatus sending the acquired stegano data as a result of processing to the first apparatus in accordance with said destination information, said second apparatus having a high processing capability for processing stegano data.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the first apparatus comprises:

an image data input unit which enters image data with stegano data embedded;
a data sending unit which sends the entered image data to the outside;
a result data receiving unit which receives the processed result data from the second apparatus; and

a result holding unit which holds the received result data; and
a display unit which displays the received result data, wherein

the second apparatus comprises:

an image data receiving unit which receives image data from the first apparatus;
a data holding unit which holds the received image data;
an image data processing unit which effects processing on image data to acquire

stegano data; and

a result data sending unit which sends the acquired stegano data as result data to the first apparatus, and wherein:

a communication path always or intermittently connects the first apparatus and the second apparatus.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second apparatus converts the acquired stegano data into ~~other information~~ URL, for sending as result data to the first apparatus, and wherein the first apparatus sends ~~the result data~~ the URL received from the second apparatus to an external third apparatus, for receiving another result of processing.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first apparatus includes a pre-processing unit which executes pre-processing of converting the image data into binary image data ~~the entered image data~~, the pre-processing being part of image processing to be performed on the side of the second apparatus.

5. (ORIGINAL) The image data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first apparatus splits the entered image data into a plurality of areas, to send some of the split image data to the second apparatus, and wherein

the second apparatus effects image processing on the some image data received from the first apparatus, the second apparatus, if stegano data cannot be acquired, sequentially requesting the first apparatus to make a re-transfer, for image processing, of image data of the remaining split areas until the second apparatus acquires stegano data.

6. (ORIGINAL) The image data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first apparatus compresses image data entered and held, for sending to the second apparatus, and wherein the second apparatus restores the compressed image data received from the first apparatus, for effecting image processing.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image data processing method using a first apparatus having a low processing capability for processing stegano data and a second apparatus having a high processing capability for processing stegano data, said method comprising:

by a first apparatus, entering, from an image on a medium, image data with embedded

stegano data that cannot be recognized visually by the first apparatus and sending the image data to a-the second apparatus with destination information;

~~by the second apparatus~~, effecting data processing on the image data received from the first apparatus by the second apparatus, to acquire stegano data; and

~~by the second apparatus~~, sending the acquired stegano data as a result of processing to the first apparatus using said destination information; and

~~by the first apparatus~~, receiving and holding, by the first apparatus, the result data received from the second apparatus and displaying the received result data.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image data processing method according to claim 7, wherein the second apparatus converts the acquired stegano data into another information URL and sends the converted data as a result data to the first apparatus, and wherein the first apparatus sends the result data said URL received from the second apparatus to an external third apparatus to receive another result of processing therefrom.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image data processing method according to claim 7, wherein the first apparatus executes pre-processing of the entered image data converting the image data into binary image data, the pre-processing being part of image processing to be performed on the side of the second apparatus.

10. (ORIGINAL) The image data processing method according to claim 7, wherein the first apparatus splits the entered image data into a plurality of areas and sends some of the split image data to the second apparatus, and wherein

the second apparatus effects image processing on the some image data received from the first apparatus, the second apparatus, if stegano data cannot be acquired, sequentially requesting the first apparatus to make a re-transfer, for image processing, of the remaining split areas of the image data until the second apparatus acquires stegano data.

11. (ORIGINAL) The image data processing method according to claim 7, wherein the first apparatus compresses the image data entered and held, for sending to the second apparatus, and wherein the second apparatus restores the compressed image data received from the first apparatus, for effecting image processing.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus which has a low processing capability for

processing stegano data, comprising:

an image data input unit which enters image data, from an image on a medium, with stegano data embedded;

a data sending unit which sends the entered image data to the outside with destination information;

a result data receiving unit which receives stegano data as result data from the outside; and

a result holding unit which holds the received result data; and
a display unit which displays said received result data.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A data processing method, comprising:

entering image data with stegano data embedded;

sending the entered image data to the outside;

receiving stegano data as result data from the outside; and

holding the received result data.

14. (NEW) A method comprising:

transmitting, from a portable electronic device, image data of an image embedded with stegano data to a server; and

receiving, from the server, the embedded stegano data.